Boston, Jan. 12, 1846.

My Dear Friend:

The presentation of your likeness, together with the note of $50 due you since last July, affords me an opportunity to express, on paper, the strong sense which I cherish of the many obligations under which I labor toward yourself. I improve it for the relief of my own mind, and not because I suppose you need or wish any such acknowledgments, to convince you of my gratitude.

First, as to your daguerreotype likeness. I have made my choice of the two specimens which you sent to me, in accordance with your request. Either of them I should prize highly; each in some respects is better than the other; and both are so good, that I have found it difficult to determine which to prefer.

When I ventured to ask such a favor of you, I did so from an earnest desire to possess the features of one, whose friendship I deem it true and substantial honor to enjoy, for whose character I cherish the warmest sentiments of admiration, and whose life is consecrated to the furtherance of the cause of truth, justice, liberty, philanthropy. Your ready compliance with my request is another proof of your kindness, to be added to the many instances which had previously transpired. I will take care to preserve the gift, if possible, so that my children, who are now all too young to understand any thing of my history, in their maturer years may be enabled to gaze upon the countenance of one who was their father's friend, coadjutor and benefactor, and also a friend to the whole human family.

As to the gift of the note of hand, I feel deeply embarrassed, and, as a matter of business, would much prefer to liquidate it as soon as possible. I certainly owe you an apology. When I obtained the loan, I confidently expected to be able to return it in the course of thirty days, on the receipt of my monthly stipend; but the receipts of the Liberator began to diminish at least two or three months earlier than usual in the year — (the pinching time generally falling between September and January) — so that it was not until the first of the present month that I received much of my dues, and then barely enough to pay for my groceries, rent, &c. My usual salary has fallen short the past year about $160. To that amount, and something more, I am still honestly in debt to various individuals. I owe my friend Samuel Philbrick $100, and you $50, on the note which you so generously wish me to accept. I want to pay you both, in good faith, according to promise. But I have felt that I could rely on your friendly indulgence, better than on that of my landlord and other creditors. Of course, there being a deficiency in the receipts of the Liberator the past year, it cripples me to the full extent that I have mentioned; but I have no claim on the receipts of the present year to make good my salary for 1845, and must do the best I can under the circumstances.

It would hurt your feelings if I should return you the note until it be paid, and it hurts my feelings to think that I have not had the means to cancel it. If it were not a business transaction originally, I should feel somewhat differently about it, though the act of kindness would be the same on your part.

I will not extend this explanatory and apologetical part of my letter; for I know how strongly averse you are to any thing like an pointed allusion to your good deeds.

Hoping ever to be one with you in spirit and purpose, and wishing for you and yours the choicest of Heaven's blessings, I remain,

Your faithful and much obliged friend,
Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Francis Jackson.

Francis Jackson,

Boston.

Mrs. Abby Stevens
June 12 1846